*227 [The questioner (Shri Nandi Yellaiah) was absent. For answer *vide* page. 29]

Industrial Units set up by KVIC in Andhra Pradesh

*228. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial units set up by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the location-wise details of the work done by the said units during the last two years, year-wise; and

(c) the number of co-operative and private units which have been provided assistance by the State KVIC during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) does not set up Village industry (VI) units of its own. VI units are set up under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) by individual entrepreneurs in various parts of the country, including Andhra Pradesh. For this purpose, margin money assistance is provided to the entrepreneurs by the Government through the KVIC and loans are made available by banks. 14,858 VI units have been established in Andhra Pradesh under the REGP up to 31st March, 2005 since its inception in April, 1995.

(b) Location-wise information on REGP units is not maintained centrally. The details of VI units set up during the last two years under the REGP in Andhra Pradesh is given below:

Year	Number of units set up	Additional employment generated (Number of persons)
2003-04	1097	31996
2004-05	1988	66463

(c) The KVIC is a national level organisation while the Andhra Pradesh Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) is the State level body for that State. No cooperative or private VI units have been provided assistance by the Andhra Pradesh KVIB, during the above mentioned period.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, the Minister has given a reply stating that no cooperative or private units have been provided assistance by the Andhra Pradesh KVIB during the above mentioned period. May I know from the Minister whether the Government of India has enquired with the Government of Andhra Pradesh as to what are the constraints that are being faced by the State Government in not financing these village industry units?

श्री महावीर प्रसाद: सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो पूछा है, यदि उनके पास इस प्रकार की कोई सूचना हो, जिसकी मदद के लिए राज्य सरकार से पूछने की अपेक्षा की जाती है, तो मैं अवश्य पूछूँगा।

Admission of China and Japan in SAARC

*229 SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 13th meet of the Head of States of SAARC countries, held in Dhaka duing second week of November 2005, decided in favour of admitting Afghanistan as member;

(b) if so, the details of the resolution adopted in this regard, including the brief background of its origin;

(c) whether the summit also dwelt upon a proposal of admitting China and Japan in SAARC;

(d) the nature and status of the said proposal, including broad views of the countries favouring/opposing the proposal; and

(e) the details of the genesis of the proposals of inviting China and Japan as Observer members of SAARC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (e) The decisions in the SAARC Summit are taken by consensus.

The recent SAARC Summit in Dhaka welcomed the request of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for membership and invited Afghanistan to join as a Member, subject to completion of formalities. The Summit also agreed, in principle, that the People's Republic of China and Japan may be associated as Observers. The Summit further decided that the modalities regarding Observer status will be decided at the twenty-seventh meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers in July, 2006.